

December 27, 1950.

Dr. Stan Shapiro,
Dept. Bacteriology,
Iowa State College,
Ames, Iowa.

Dear Stan:

I don't mean to be difficult, but I find it difficult to believe that anything is wrong with your 58-161 and W-1177 cultures, if they conform to what they are supposed to be. Would you try it once more; if they still don't work, please send transfers back to me, and I'll send you fresh. If you really have picked up infertile derivatives, I'd be very much interested, because nothing like that has happened here.

Under this cover, you will find a mimeographed circular, which says nothing you do not already know.

Well, what was the conclusion of your sex tests on *Aerobacter*? Did I understand that you had tested mutants from 50-odd different strains in all combinations without success? Here, I've been screening a very large number of strains for crossing with K-12. Of about 140 *E. coli* so far tested, there are 8 or ten very good possibilities, several already thoroughly verified. Most of them are typical coli (some sucrose⁺; one is a "paracolon" intermediate (ImV10 ~~---~~; Lac-). I should be interested to test more independently isolated coliforms, *aerobacter*, etc. If you can send me any (wild types), your cooperation would be appreciated.

Your name is on the mailing list, so you'll get all reprints, at intervals of a year or so. Esther is working fulltime now, on lysogenicity in K-12.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg